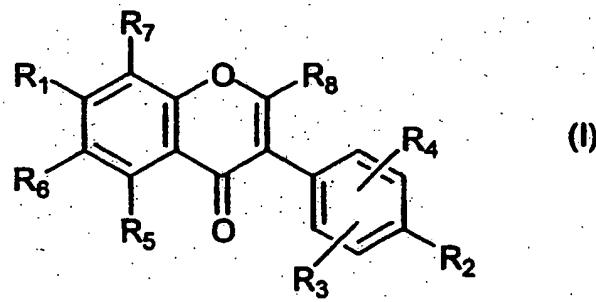


wherein

$R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7$ and R_8 are independently hydrogen, hydroxy, OR_9 , $OC(O)R_9$, $OS(O)R_9$, alkyl, haloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, thio, alkylthio, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, nitro, or halo; and

R_9 is alkyl, haloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl or alkylaryl;

[Handwritten signature]
in high to quantitative yield and without the need for chromatographic purification; comprising the step of hydrogenating a compound of formula I



wherein

$R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8$ and R_9 are as defined above;

to prepare a compound of formula II; and

wherein the hydrogenation step is performed with hydrogen in the presence of a reduction catalyst and a solvent.

- 02
4. (Amended) A method of claim 1, wherein the reduction catalyst is selected from the group comprising palladium on activated carbon, palladium on barium sulfate, alumina powder, and platinum (IV) oxide.
 5. (Amended) A method of claim 4, wherein the reduction catalyst is about 10% palladium on activated carbon.
 6. (Amended) A method of claim 4, wherein the reduction catalyst is about 5% palladium on activated carbon.
 7. (Amended) A method of claim 1, wherein the solvent is selected from the group comprising a C₁-C₈ alcohol, an alkyl acetate, and a C₁-C₃ carboxylic acid.
 8. (Amended) A method of claim 7, wherein the solvent is absolute methanol, absolute ethanol, and ethyl acetate.
 9. (Amended) A method of claim 8, wherein the solvent is absolute methanol.

13
Please add new claims 47 to 71 as follows:

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47. (New) A method of claim 4, wherein the reduction catalyst is palladium on alumina powder.

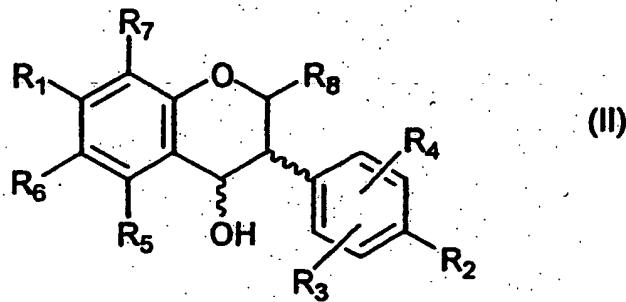
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48. (New) A method of claim 8, wherein the solvent is absolute ethanol.
 49. (New) A method of claim 8, wherein the solvent is absolute ethyl acetate.
 50. (New) A method of claim 7, wherein the solvent further includes a C₁-C₃ carboxylic acid.
 51. (New) A method of claim 1, wherein any free hydroxy substituents R₁-R₈ of the compound of formula I are first protected as acetoxy derivatives prior to the hydrogenation step.
 52. (New) A method of claim 13, wherein the compound of formula I is diacetoxy daidzein.
 53. (New) A method of claim 1, wherein the yield of the compound of formula II is from about 83% to quantitative.
 54. (New) A method of claim 1, wherein the compound of formula II is a mixture of *cis*- and *trans*-isomers.
 55. (New) A method of claim 1, wherein the compound of formula II is the *cis*-isomer.

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56. (New) A method of claim 1, wherein kilogram quantities of the compound of formula II are prepared.

57. (New) A compound of formula II



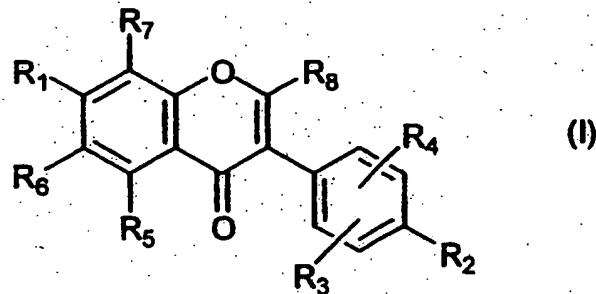
wherein

R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, R₇ and R₈ are independently hydrogen, hydroxy, OR₉, OC(O)R₉,

OS(O)R₉, alkyl, haloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, thio, alkylthio, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, nitro, or halo; and

R₉ is alkyl, haloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl or alkylaryl;

comprising the step of hydrogenating a compound of formula I



wherein

R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, R₇, R₈ and R₉ are as defined above;

to prepare a compound of formula II; and

wherein the hydrogenation step is performed with hydrogen in the presence of a reduction catalyst and a solvent.

- A3 cont*
58. (New) The compound of claim 57, wherein the reduction catalyst is selected from the group consisting of palladium on activated carbon, palladium on barium sulfate, palladium on alumina powder, and platinum(IV)oxide .
 59. (New) The compound of claim 58, wherein the reduction catalyst is about 5% palladium-on-activated-carbon.
 60. (New) The compound of claim 58, wherein the reduction catalyst is about 10% palladium on activated carbon.
 61. (New) The compound of claim 58, wherein the reduction catalyst is palladium on alumina powder.
 62. (New) The compound of claim 57, wherein the solvent is a pharmaceutically acceptable solvent selected from the group consisting of a C₁-C₆ alcohol, a C₁-C₆ alkyl acetate and a C₁-C₃ carboxylic acid.
 63. (New) The compound of claim 62, wherein the solvent is absolute methanol, ethanol or ethyl acetate.

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CONC*
64. (New) The compound of claim 63, wherein the solvent is absolute methanol.
 65. (New) The compound of claim 63, wherein the solvent is absolute ethanol.
 66. (New) The compound of claim 63, wherein the solvent is absolute ethyl acetate.
 67. (New) The compound of claim 62, wherein the solvent further includes a C₁-C₃ carboxylic acid.
 68. (New) The compound of claim 57, wherein any free hydroxy substituents R₁-R₈ of the compound of formula I are first protected as acetoxy derivatives prior to the hydrogenation step.
 69. (New) The compound of claim 68, wherein the compound of formula I is diacetoxy daidzein.
 70. (New) The compound of claim 57, wherein the compound of formula II is a mixture of *cis*- and *trans*-isomers.
 71. (New) The compound of claim 57, wherein the compound of formula II is the *cis*-isomer.

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